Free Russia a Nation Inspired Anew, Declares Famous Historian

Prof. Aulard of the Paris Sorbonne Believes All Humanity Should Benefit From the Revolution and That Democratized Russia Should Aid World Peace

By PROF. ALPHONSE AULARD of the Sorbonne, Paris.

THE sensation aroused in Paris and all France by the Russian revolution can only be compared to that produced in the eighteenth century, under Louis XVI., by the American revolution. We feel that if the Russian revolution does not miscarry, owing to defects of its own or through the intrigues of its enemies, it will prove one of the greatest events in the history of the world.

Perhaps I may give a first insight into the state of mind of Frenchmen belonging to the intellectual classes by quoting an address unanimously adopted by the Society of History of the French Revolution at its meeting on March 18. This society, of which I have the honor to be president, sent the following telegram, on my proposal, to the President of the Duma at Petrograd:

"The Society of History of the French Revolution, at a general meeting held in the Sorbonne, feels itself moved to admiration of and sympathy with the Russian revolution. It finds revived therein the ideal, the heroism and the originality of Russian characteristics being preserved, the acts of the French Revolution.

"It is proud of these similarities. It salutes your Mirabeaus, your Dantons, your taking of the Bastille and your day of August 10. Soon it will salute your Kellermanns, your Jourdans, your Valmy and your Fleurus. Like the French of 1792 and of the year II., you are making your revolution for the world as much as for yourself, and like them you are determined that nowhere shall there exist a single oppressed nationality. We feel that we are the mouthpiece of all French historians in assigning a place of honor in the history of humanity to the Duma and the Russian people."

I hope that Russian intellectuals, many of whom are well informed in the history of the French revolution, will feel the full purport of this telegram. One thing is certain: the Petrograd revolutionaries have drawn inspiration from the French revolution even more than the French of 1789 did from the American revolution.

There are so many striking analogies that it is difficult to mention every one. The Duma refusing to dissolve in spite of the Czar's formal order is the National Assembly of France refusing to separate itself into orders at the royal sitting on June 23, 1789. The words, surging with noble revolt, of Rodzianko recall the words of Mirabeau alike full of noble revolt.

The Deputies of the Duma braving death to found liberty have in them the very soul of our oathtakers of the Jeu-de-Paume. The taking of the St. Peter and St. Paul fort is, militarily and symbolically, a repetition of the taking of the French Bastille. This Preobajenski regiment rallying to the Duma is a duplication of the insurgent French guards.

The railway car in which the Czar was stopped by his subjects is the coach of Louis XVI. at Varennes. This imperial palace, taken by assault, this throne overturned, is an imitation of the great French national insurrection of August 10, 1792, in which the people, at the price of its blood, took the Tuileries. To-day Nicholas abdicates, then Louis XVI. was relieved of his high office and the throne remained vacant, cast to the ground, until the day when the National Convention established the republic.

Here the analogy seems to stop. Although one of the new Ministers calls himself republican, this government, at the hour I write, does not speak of a republic and demands a Czar. If the Russian throne remains vacant it is because the Grand Duke Michael refuses to occupy it so long as a constitutional assembly has not given its decision. In 1792, if the throne of France remained vacant, it was because there was no fitting candidate to occupy it. The republic in France came from the fact that in the Bourbon family no possible king could be discerned. Will the hesitation of Grand Duke Michael bring in a Russian republic as the unworthiness of the Duke of Orleans brought in a French republic? We do not know.

In the indecision of his character Czar Nicholas strikingly resembles King Louis XVI. Like Louis XVI. Nicholas has at times shown a disposition toward doing good. Like Louis XVI. he has allowed himself to be dominated by his wife, who, like Marie Antoinette, was a foreigner. The Russians, to their misfortune, have had their German, the Czarina, as we had our Austrian, the Queen. Treachery has been found installed in the imperial Russian court, as it was installed in the royal French court.

It is not only by its successes that the French revolution has lighted the way for the Russian revolution, but also by its failings. The Russians have been enabled to avoid our hesitation, our tentative gropings and our troubles due to lack of experience. Russian characteristics have shown an energetic rapidness. Petrograd revolutionaries have been able to concentrate within three days our three years of revolution. Their victory has been lightninglike yet intelligent.

But the resemblance between the French and Russian revolutions is not the most interesting point for the French; it is the effect that it seems to them must be produced on the war by the Russian revolution.

Although it is difficult to forecast the consequences of a revolution of which as yet we only know certain broad results, although it is impossible to conjecture with certainty how the immense Russian people will conduct itself once it is freed from chains and whether it will be able to take to itself, ignorant as it still is, capable leaders, the French agree in expecting that the new Russian Government will conduct the war against Germany with truly national energy.

The defeat of Russian despotism has been the defeat of German influences which under the Czarina were working stealthily and treacherously for a separate peace. We think that the Russian people is going to fight against Germany not only with all its physical forces but with all its soul.

What will be the new Russian Government's attitude as regards the question of Poland, to the worldwide importance of which President Wilson so happily drew attention? Will it give precision and development to the vague promises which the Czar made to the Poles? The autonomy of unified Poland follows so logically from the very principles of the young Russian revolution that we hope to see this logical triumph over all prejudices.

I, for my part, feel very clearly that this question is a matter of life or death for the Russian revolution. I believe that it will live only if it solves the Polish question liberally, if it restores its autonomy to Finland, if it so acts that there can no longer be found a single oppressed or even discontented nationality in the Russian empire.

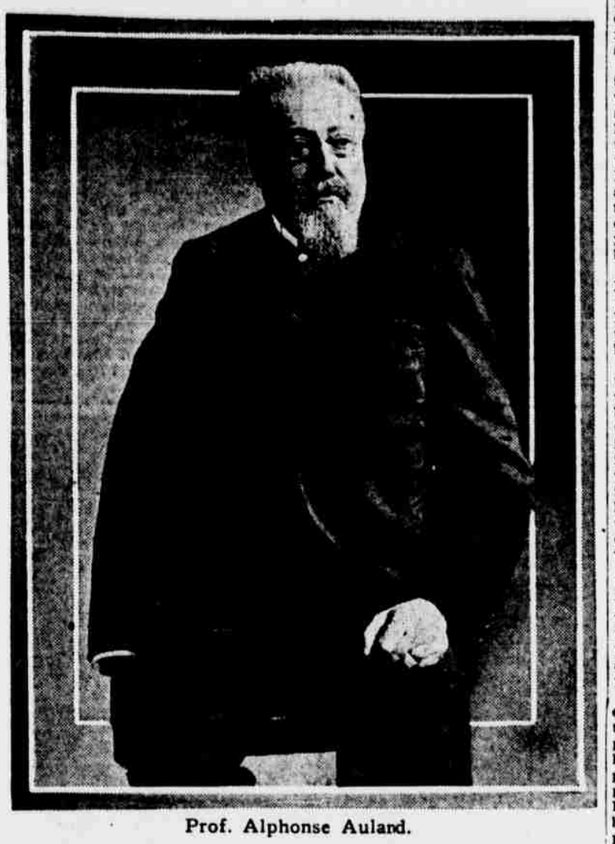
The new Government has already announced religious liberty. Let us hope that it is the end of all Russian anti-Semitism.

We in France also feel and feel keenly how important the success of the Russian revolution is for the organization of future peace. With despotic Czarism the principles of this peace would not perhaps have been as pure as the French, English, Belgians and Italians desire. The spirit of conquest would perhaps have been mingled with the spirit of justice. Democratized Russia will aid us freely to found peace on ideas of the liberty of peoples such as the English, French and Italian Governments have so often proclaimed, and as President Wilson in turn has defined them.

Yes, Russian despotism abolished, the peace will be more just and in consequence more durable.

We trust also that the Russian revolution will arouse great admiration and great sympathy in the United States. American republicans have been grieved by the knowledge that French republicans have found themselves obliged, through German aggression, to appear to march hand in hand with Russian despotism. Such a spectacle will no longer be seen. Russia has just made her entry into civilized humanity, into liberal humanity, and our friends in America should feel to-day that we were right in putting confidence in the Russian people and in having faith in the strength of its idealism.

PARIS, March 20.



Prof. Alphonse Auland.

Prof. Alphonse Aulard of the Sorbonne, Paris, is the leading authority on the history of the French Revolution, to the study of which he has devoted some thirty years. He was led to specialize in this subject almost by accident. As a university professor in Latin he made a study of the orators of ancient Rome, which led him to take up the orators of the French Revolution, a subject then practically untouched. From this study resulted his first work, "Parliamentary Eloquence During the French Revolution."

Having thus entered on the field of revolutionary history, he found that everything therein still remained to be done. The history of the French Revolution had not been studied and written critically and in detail. Hardly any use had been made of the huge mass of revolutionary documents and records in the public archives. The public up to that time was satisfied to know the revolution partly from tradition and partly from one or two general manuals or reviews of the subject, like Mignet's "History of the French Revolution" or kindred books written in the '30s and '40s of the last century.

Prof. Aulard organized a methodical, critical and thorough investigation of the history of the revolution from documents. He became the editor of a special review devoted to that field of study and he was appointed professor of the history of the French Revolution at the University of Paris. This chair was founded for him by the city of Paris, the Municipal Council having a special interest in the subject from a historic and democratic point of view. Prof. Aulard had many excellent pupils and followers, so that within a generation or so the political, social, economical and local history of the revolution was thoroughly investigated and numbers of studies and many documents were published. Prof. Aulard's work culminated in his "Political History of the French Revolution."

Prof. Aulard has always been very radical in his politics, and the nature of his political work has brought him into many controversies. This is easily understood when one recalls the state of mind created by Carlyle's fantastic history of the revolution (or romance, as French students call it) and the first part of Taine's work on the revolution, which with all its admirable qualities was very superficial and incomplete in its investigation or understanding of the French Revolution and whose undercurrent of feeling and conclusions, inspired partly by the conservative temperament of Taine and partly by the impressions left on him by the war of 1870-71 and the Commune, were on the whole unsympathetic to the revolution and to the progress of democracy.

Lord Derby Tells How England Has Solved War Time Freight Problem

Organization of British Dock Laborers on Military Lines Has Lifted "Casual Worker" to Place of Responsibility and Pride and Made Great Things Possible

By EDWARD MARSHALL.

LONDON, April 12.

WILL the dock laborers of New York, Chicago, Detroit, Boston, San Francisco and all other American ports be wearing Uncle Samuel's uniform ere long and marching to their work in time to bugle calls?

That plan and other details of a system worked out by Lord Derby have solved England's great wartime longshore problem at a time when war had made this problem vital to the nation's life. The loading and unloading of great ships like clockwork may be necessary to our national welfare.

And not only has Lord Derby's plan solved the problem of handling an island nation's military shipping when on the handling of that shipping hung the island nation's very life, but it has had an immense and valuable effect upon large masses of that nation's working population, raising from the depths a class which had been set aside as "casual" to the point of utter hopelessness.

Some weeks ago I worked out with Lord Derby and with Capt. Townroe the method by which Britain raised her mighty citizen army. That is by no means the only work of the kind which Lord Derby has done. His organization of the dockers down at Liverpool has been of immense value to the nation. It is easily conceivable that similar organization might be of as great importance to America.

Not less with us than with England would participation in a great war be a matter very largely, very vitally of ships, docks, cargoes and longshoremen.

To any one at all familiar with the usual inefficiencies of longshore labor in American ports—and it happens that, for a layman, I am unusually familiar with it, having at one time made a careful study of its unfortunate effect upon health and thrift among the men—it must be clear at once that Lord Derby's scheme of systematizing and of disciplining might be of a value to us comparable with that of his unprecedentedly successful plan for raising volunteers for actual military service.

When I asked Lord Derby in London to tell me all about it his face glowed with interest. He is one of the best natured, the hardest working and, therefore, happiest men in England, and his face always glows; but there is an especial brightness in his smile when the subject of his Liverpool dock laborers is brought up.

"I was not the originator of the plan," he was careful to explain. "It was first suggested by Mr. Williams of the Labor Exchange. He was the first captain of the Dock Battalion, I was the first colonel.

"The importance of the rapid loading and unloading of ships at the principal military harbor of an island nation in wartime cannot be overestimated. As soon as we had got away the expeditionary force, which was what we called the troops first sent to France, we were confronted by the task of feeding them and keeping them supplied with arms and ammunition. That turned out to be a bigger undertaking than any one supposed it could be, as has everything connected with this war, and one of the principal difficulties lay at the docks.

"England is a maritime nation and therefore ever has been more or less efficient in such matters as loading and discharging cargoes. Liverpool is the greatest port in all the world and has been for many years, so we already had what ordinarily had been regarded as fine facilities and a competent working force there. But they were not equal to the wartime strain.

"This was constantly made more manifest as they were weakened by enlistments from the ranks of the longshoremen. The best of these men went, of course, and fine fellows they were, too, who could have been ill spared from the army.

"The dockers' labor union always had been strong. It had conducted several very stubborn strikes and we had to make sure in every way that nothing of that sort now should occur. Obviously the way to prevent it was to confer with the labor leaders, whose interests, in the last analysis, were just the same as those of all the rest of us, and whose patriotism, we were sure, could be trusted implicitly. This latter unquestionably proved to be the case.

"We found the labor union heads entirely sympathetic with the work we had to do, and they unqualifiedly indorsed the plan as soon as it was determined that we would take none but union men. That decision would have been arrived at anyway, for the union dockers were the best dockers. They held one unpleasant meeting at which I tried to speak but was denied the privilege. But that soon passed.

"We began our work with 200 men and now have 1,600, every one a volunteer, every one unfit for military service but very fit indeed for our work, every one better paid than he was in pre-war days and every one doing more to earn his money than he ever did before, because he is working for his country, although working with less fatigue and under better conditions than he ever knew before.

"Of course no man can tell what the effect of the experiment on after the war dock labor will be, but there is a great lesson in it somewhere, which some one will work out to the advantage of the whole community. From the start, indeed from the first day, the plan has been an absolute success.

"The immense value of organization along military lines; that is, organization for the greatest efficiency in what may be called team work but which really is group work in very large groups, is shown by the present feats of the men at the very necessary work which they are called upon to do.

"Perhaps one illustration will suffice, although it would not be difficult to get statistics as striking for many. Under the old plan, or lack of plan, it was considered a good day's work to get 800 tons of sugar off a ship and properly upon the dock in one day. Now, working under exactly similar conditions of dock facilities and cargo stowage and with the same number of men, we have handled 2,356 tons in a day without an hour more of labor.

"There is an increase in industrial efficiency of about 300 per cent. at a very slight apparent and no real increased expense. That's what organization of the dockers did for the shipping situation in Liverpool, to the British Empire, at the moment the most important port in all the world.

"Big work was to be done on which in a considerable degree depended the safety of the empire and we determind to scrimp nothing, so we gave the ordinary wages plus military pay to those who volunteered to go into the Battalion of Dockers, which we quickly decided to organize upon practically military lines.

"The ordinary wage would have been about 35 shillings a week, and the addition of the military pay enabled us to guarantee the men 42 shillings, or about $10.50 a week. To those who were promoted to the necessary non-commissioned officerships we gave an increase of pay corresponding to the increase which a man gets upon such promotion in the army.

"We also tried to minimize the uncertainties of longshore life and pay. We paid all overtime as it would be paid in civilian employment, and if a certain ship scheduled to come in and prepared for by having the men at their posts failed to arrive, we paid them anyway, as seemed to us but fair.

"We had a great stroke of luck in the fact that both the president and vice-president of the dockers union were old soldiers. They took to the new arrangement very kindly and were able to organize and drill the men much better than old soldiers who were not dockers or dockers who were not old soldiers could have done.

"McKibben actually had served with the Scots Guards and had been badly wounded during their superb retreat from Mons. He now is sergeant-major and I cannot speak too highly of his service to the nation with the dockers battalion. Keefe, the company sergeant-major, is an older soldier still, having served in the American army.

"There was a certain opposition from the dockers before the start. They held one unpleasant meeting at which I tried to speak but was denied the privilege. But that soon passed.

"We began our work with 200 men and now have 1,600, every one a volunteer, every one unfit for military service but very fit indeed for our work, every one better paid than he was in pre-war days and every one doing more to earn his money than he ever did before, because he is working for his country, although working with less fatigue and under better conditions than he ever knew before.

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"The men, I think, are far happier than ever they were before and are very popular in Liverpool, which probably was not true of the dock laborers in the old days. The effect upon the men has been electrical. They have gained in self-respect as well as in efficiency, and I hope not one of them would go back to the old conditions.

"At first we were rather chary of putting them into uniforms. We weren't quite sure what the effect would be. So we gave them something in the nature of a compromise costume—we gave them khaki overalls and let it go at that.

"But very soon the men themselves began to think about this very matter. They had decided that membership in the Dock Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment was a thing to be proud of, and they asked for a military uniform. This has been provided. It is now proper service dress, including service caps and puttees.

"When we were asked if matters could not be arranged so that the men could wear this uniform when they were not on duty it was apparent that a really great thing had been accomplished.

"I believe that is one of the most significant things which ever had occurred in industry. Every member of our battalion certainly is proud of his employment. That uniform has added immensely to the self-respect of the men, as the discipline and organization of the work have added immensely to their efficiency.

"There is practically no drunkenness in the battalion. It may be that a case a month comes up for investigation, but the average may be less. Surely it is not more. This is absolutely revolutionary. Any man who would disgrace the uniform would be snubbed and perhaps worse by his fellow members of the organization.

"They drill very well nowadays and have a drum and bugle band. They have learned thrift with their prosperity and new conservatism of conduct, and probably every man of them has money in the bank. They have put £12,500 into the war loan.

"And the important and significant thing is that while they are paid the highest wage that ever was paid for like labor in the history of England, they have nevertheless immensely reduced the cost of handling cargoes.

"As Colonel-Commandant, I keep in the closest touch with them and am very proud of them, and I find myself unable to say enough for them or for their officers. To their officers also must be given much credit. I cannot say too much for what Major Lemonius has done.

"It is a strange thing for a gentleman of his training to be up at 6.30 in the morning and working on the docks perhaps till late at night; but there has been no more grumbling from the gentlemen officers than there has been from the men.

"I am sure that there is not a docker in the whole battalion who would not fight for his officers. I am sure that Mr. Sexton and Mr. Mulligan of the Dockers' Union will indorse everything I say upon this subject.

"I cannot say what effect this will have on industry in Liverpool and elsewhere after the war ends, but it is inconceivable that it should not have some effect. Surely the successful experiment has been watched with interest by Liverpool employers.

"The men are not kept in barracks. They live in their own homes and have as perfect freedom out of working hours as ever they did. They are regular in turning up of mornings at the docks, which they never were in the old days.

"The most striking thing about the whole experiment is that it successfully has turned casual labor into regular labor. There will be no conscription of the Liverpool dockers, no matter where else it may be necessary to reach out for men. These fine fellows are doing better work for their country where they are than they could do in the trenches.

"The battalion is organized upon the same lines as those followed with the service battalions in the British army. It has commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers and privates. It is divided into companies and squads exactly as it would be were it a body of fighting men. A squad consists of twenty men, and is the unit.

"Each discharging or loading body is made up of a certain number of units, with a sergeant in charge of each unit and a commissioned officer supervising. On the supervision by a commissioned officer we have learned that much of efficiency depends. For this general supervision no expert knowledge of the work really is required, although our men who do it have become experts, but the necessity is for the moral effect."

"Do you imagine that the plan would work as well on the New York docks as it does on those at Liverpool?" I asked Major Lemonius.

"Who knows? It might. Your divergent nationalities might make a difference. Practically all our men are British born.

"The effect of the whole thing has been magical upon efficiency, but it has been even more marked on the men themselves. In the old days many of the men by working a half week could earn enough to keep themselves fed after a fashion. Beyond accomplishing this primary object they had no ambitions.

"From the point of view that they held then, when they had earned enough to buy their food, drink and shelter their necessities were appeased. I doubt if they ever thought of thrift.

"Of course, this had an unfortunate effect, but they never had been trained to think much about those things. The Liverpool community still feels the effect of the old system in the presence there of many men of the old type, under the old conditions, handling non-military goods. If all the dockers at the great port should be organized, as are those which handle military goods, the city which surrounds it literally would be revolutionized.

"According to the old ideas, a single man is making quite enough when he earns 25 shillings weekly. It gives him the necessaries, including drink. At the ordinary rate of wages three days' work or three half nights will produce that much. Once it is obtained, then no more work until it is gone.

"But the men in the battalion have learned better, and I don't believe they ever will slip back into the old ways. I am sure that they would be very sick indeed should they be dispersed after peace comes.

"Routine is thoroughly organized. It is automatic. There is no waste motion. The working day is from 7 in the morning till 5 at night, with an hour for luncheon. The men go home or to the canteens for their noonday meal. Of these canteens there is no official supervision.

"The effect of the plan on the health of the men has been extraordinary. Absences from work average considerably less than in the munition factories, where the employees are not organized in military groups but are under strict control. In winter, when the work is stiff, there are a good many absences, still, but the total of lost time is insignificant as compared to the totals of the old days.

"I have made no investigation of the effect of it all on home conditions, but I am assured that it has been most favorable. Surely the men are very much happier than ever they were before, and above all as I have indicated, their self respect immensely has increased. They are doing their level best and that means that they are doing far more than their bit.

"In age they range from 20 to 70. All are attested men, that is, have signified their willingness to serve in the army proper, but all have been exempted. Of course, we take none who could go into the trenches, although we take none who are physically unfit. A man may have feet so bad that he can't march and yet be perfect for our purposes. A man may be strong without being militarily able. But our men are muscular and ready for what comes. If by accident a weakling is put into a squad all its other members will complain.

"Taken all in all, I think it not improbable that one of the most useful lessons of the many which the war has taught has been developed by this military organization of longshore labor, and I can see no reason to believe that the plan which we have followed would not be as effective in the United States as it has been here."

Officers of the First Dock Battalion. Lord Derby is seated in the front row, third from the left, and Major Lemonius second from the left.

The Liverpool Dockers' band.

EVE OF THE BATTLE FROM MEN'S VIEWPOINT

The following story from "somewhere in France" was prepared under the direction of the British War Office and therefore is a true picture of life at the front.

IT was the night before an expected German attack, and behind the British firing line at the threatened point reserve positions were manned which had been prepared for just such an emergency but not previously occupied. The result was that little of the comfort existed which even in a trench the presence of inhabitants always insures; many of the dugouts were flooded and all were damp and disagreeable. But an hour after the snipers of one of the battalions had taken over their quarters these men, the greatest individualists of the British army, had converted their dugout from a derelict four walled structure into a well arranged, comfortable billet.

At one end a rack has been made out of two trench boards, and here the deadly sniping rifles are stacked. On a shelf above, also made out of a trench board spread with empty sandbags, the valuable telescopic sights and other instruments of the craft are neatly laid out. At regular intervals along the walls suspended from a bayonet driven in between two sandbags hangs the confused equipment of each man.

The few tallow dips which give a flickering light to the place fret the walls with strange tremulous designs in shadow work cast by the multitudinous equipment straps and pouches; and whenever a sniper moves across the floor great shadows swoop up from nothingness and disappear into the roof. The smoke from a score of pipes mounts upward and feeds a billowing cloud which almost hides the roof from view and comes down to the shoulders of a man standing by the doorway, making him appear some headless figure, a stranger entering from another world.

The rations have arrived. There is good evidence of the fact in the glowing charcoal which fills the brasiers.

The bottom of the door curtain has been lifted up and the covering of the window partially removed, so that a gentle draught carries away the noxious fumes from the brazier, and with the exception of the smoke cloud clinging to the roof the air of the dugout is pure.

The preparations for a meal are well in hand. One brazier holds a large dixie of water, and the volume of steam pouring from under its lids shows that the boiling point is not far off. A sniper stands by with a bagful of tea and sugar mixed together, ready for the brewing, and another is prying off the end of a tin of "Ideal Milk." Several tins of Maconachie ration are heating on a grill placed above another brazier, but it is on the third brazier that the piece de resistance of the feast is cooking.

The battalion has just been hurried up from its month's rest in a village far behind the lines, and its snipers, including as they do many gamekeepers, have brought with them three plump hares caught only the day before. These are cooking in another dixie, and a burly figure is bending over it stirring the contents with a spoon, while the greater proportion of the other men are grouped round him watching the proceedings.

One man holds a canteen of polished aluminum, rather a superior article for an ordinary soldier, but it is not his property. It belongs to the sniper officer to whom he acts as orderly, and it will bear the first fruits of the dixie as a goodwill offering from men to officer, symbolical of the fraternal feeling existing in the sniper brotherhood.

There is a certain gravity about the proceedings, but this is a feature which characterizes these fellows in all their activities, and is not due in the slightest degree to any thought of the grim work on the morrow. One who had not met the section before might almost have compared the gathering to the manikin crew whom Rip Van Winkle fell in with in the Catskill Mountains but for the lack of any trace of boredom on the faces of those assembled here.

The staidness stamped on each man comes from responsibility, not weariness. Possibly they have a greater average record of Germans to their credit than any of their fellows, and men accustomed to deal out death are not prone to uncontrolled gayety; nor are men who themselves walk daily in the valley of the shadow guilty of undue merriment.

Gravest of all the assembly are those seated nearest the brazier, where the hare soup is stewing, and it is not difficult to infer that they are the veterans, the supersnipers, of the section. Their age, the manner in which the younger snipers defer to them and give them place, the cool confidence of their every look and movement, all mark them out as leaders among men.

Certainly they form a notable group, one which a psychologist would delight to study; each a man of distinct personality, yet collectively the deadliest unit on the whole battle line, each of a name known outside the division and of a skill which has brought the section success in the trenches and credit on the test rifle ranges behind the lines. Yet no trace of arrogance shows itself in their demeanor, and the careless observer might possibly have only caught a hint of the great reserve strength embodied in each of them. And all sit gravely and watch big Adam, he who wields the spoon, stir the soup.

Suddenly there is a diversion from the other end of the dugout. Here two or three younger men have been sitting, and their conversation, gradually rising in key, has been slowly breaking in as a disturbing factor to the solemnity of their elders round the brazier. The noise now reaches a climax, and an indignant voice exclaims:

"Ye're just a blether, Jimmy Duffus; just a big, bletherin' eedlot."

"But I tell ye, Wullie, I heard the officer sayin' so," says Jimmy aggrievedly.

"Well, even though ye did," rejoins Willie, "what richt hae ye to be turnin' ower what the officers says in public?"

"He didna tell me to keep it quate, Wullie Black."

"He didna tell ye onything at a'. It was jist thae big lugs o' yours happened by at the time. And noo, like the big mooth ye are, ye goun clyping it a' ower the place."

Jimmy rose threateningly, and Willie was not a whit behind him. Another second and they would have come to blows, but the sergeant intervened.

"Come ower here, baith o' ye," he said sternly, and the two slunk up to him.

"It was Duffus here, sairgeant, was sayin' that the officer was sayin' that the Germans wud attack——"

"Be quate, Black," broke in the sergeant. "Ye're but a poor ignorant boy, Wullie," he continued, speaking with great deliberation, "only good to hold the horse by the head. Go and clean that rifle or I'll tak it from ye a'thegither."

Willie went off to his task with alacrity. Not only did he love his rifle, but he feared his sergeant's eloquence.

"And as for you, Duffus," said the latter, turning to the other culprit, "if you do not keep your mooth shut about what your betters say, ye'll be out o' the section the morn's mornin'. Just mind in future that onything the officer wants the section to know, I'll tell ye."

The youth sat down greatly abashed and the sergeant leaned back against the bags of charcoal and gently dozed off. The information which he had heard his officer discussing proved altogether too much for Duffus to contain alone, and once he saw the sergeant sound asleep he shot his thunderbolt.

"The officer said the Germans would attack at dawn."

He spoke almost in an undertone, yet with the exception of the sergeant every one in the dugout could hear him. Not a man stirred, however. No official announcement had been made as to the reason for the recent move, but each had drawn his own conclusion, and the news caused no surprise.

Big Adam leaned forward and roused the sergeant, and one or two of the younger men looked up inquiringly expecting some authoritative contribution to the discussion, but when he spoke his words had no reference to the coming attack.

"This is grand hare soup," he said quietly, tasting a spoonful appreciatively. "Will ye tak a sup, Andra?"